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Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence

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4-30-1839

Letter from Alexander Whitney, Jackson, Louisiana, to Edward Whitney, Boston, Massachusetts, 1839 April 30

Alexander Whitney

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[1839]

An Adventure April 30th

Day before
 Yesterday I rode to St Francisville and delivered quite warm & ultra Temperance address -
 Dined with Judge Danson the Priest a creole
 of the country who takes quite a warm interest
 in the cause, & with Bullard the Secretary a
 graduate of Harvard in '29 - who is worth his
 weight in gold and ambitious to Messrs. Botto
 of the totalitarians. Left for home about half
 past 4 with the intention of crossing Thompsons
 Creek before dark - I recollect proceeding on my
 route as far as Mrs O Connors a plantation in
 sight of the road about 100 rods off of it. here
 my conscious existence ceased for the space
 of 14 hours - I awoke the next morning ^{at day light} finding
 myself in bed in a strange place, & the difficult-
 ty of hunting up my identity was no inconsider-
 able one - I even went back as far as my
 voyage from Boston - traced myself to St. Or-
 thence to Texas, thence to Jackson thence to
 the church where I had delivered my ad-
 dress, & finally to Judge D's where I dis-
 tinctly recollect still dining without wine
 Here I was at a pause - a full stop - I then ex-
 amined the state of my corporation & found
 myself sound in every respect except a slight
 contusion upon my head. Here I was obliged
 to call in the assistance of a gentleman upon
 who slept in the same room with me - who

gave me some further light upon the subject. Told me that I was at Mrs O Connors - that I had arrived there the afternoon previous leading my horse - that I had fallen from him, and that I had given a man a dollar for catching him - that I appeared a little wild (mark the expression) and had been put to bed &c. &c. all which even to the fall - the dollar - the walk, the arrival - your dominant hath not to this moment the slightest recollection - After thanking my entertainers for their hospitality, I mounted my horse and rode home to breakfast - as well with the slight exception of a headache, as ever.

Now the best of the joke is to come. My entertainer is a rich widow who raises a 150 bails of cotton primum and there is not the slightest doubt that she believes me to have fallen from my horse in a state of beastly intoxication - What was done & said after my arrival at the house I have not the slightest idea or whether the mistreps of the mansion saw me at all - A remark made by the gentleman alluded to convinces me that intoxication was the construction put upon my appearance. He observed very dryly that my horse a fine looking animal did not look ~~as if~~ like a stumbling horse which was the cause assigned by me - so far as I could grasp of my situation - a gentleman - a nephew to the widow has promised to learn further particulars of

my deportment and to explain the matter to the lady - This is the first time that I have ever lost my senses from a blow & I thought under the peculiar circumstances the story was worth telling - I shall not ride Charley any more - This is not the first time that he has ~~been~~ injured. He is a beautiful horse belonging to Mr K. but a perfect devil who has run with every body who has mounted him - with me more than 20 times. Besides that he stumbles - He ran with K the other day when he was riding in co with Ann which caused her horse to run & frightened ^{her} into an alarming sickness - We are all tolerably well & anxious to dispose of the devil at a good price -

Can I do any thing for you in the cotton line I am told the widow has a niece also a widow who is sole heiress - Am told also that I made quite a sensation in the other parish by my speech, the Parish of East Feliciana is rich and abounding in widows -

I shall forth at Clinton in a week or two Farewell and take care how you ride stumbling horses. Keep the peace. Honour the King - Give my love to the Family - acknowledge the rec^d of letters from Father, Sarah & Anne & James & John - Affectionately Mrs. Mary Whitney
Have not heard from you a great while

P.S. - Oh Respecting my Own health - about which something
 has been said - I am enjoying a very respectable state of health.
 I think another abscess forming on my side which relieves
 me from cough & pain - I shall be a well man yet if I don't break
 my neck - Never since my sickness has the prospect been more
 encouraging - Let me once have the strength of Sampson & then
 if you want your taters dug for this winter I shall not come
 on this season - it will be to great a sacrifice of my very encouraging
 prospects, & perhaps of actual duty besides my wife does not require
 it. - Another year & I shall be as independent as a king - I will
 after noon mail has just been bringing your & Sarah's letter of April 14th

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Mr. Edward Whitney
 Care of Sprague & Loule
 J. Wharfed
 Boston
 Mass



Keeps

I don't see what you find so remarkable in my standing god father to the children
 your imputation upon my hospitality is not deserved. I asked Loule to come to
 - was not aware of his long stay in the City - & besides took particular pains to inter-
 duce him to my friends in the City - My stay there after his arrival be-
 ing only half a day - I did not write the obituary of Genl Riple - nothing
 but a very unexpected change in my affairs will bring me home this
 summer, for I cannot come without one of the girls For your sake I should
 prefer to bring the few - Summer sets in very warm - Peace
 for dinner - J.W.